

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00788 281310Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W
-----281429Z 008236 /44

R 271800Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6179
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0788

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SS, AG
SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP: POLISARIO CONTINUE TO CLAIM VICTORIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER PERIOD OF QUIET, POLISARIO
PROPAGANDA HAS RECENTLY BEEN REPORTING WHAT IT PRESENTS
AS STEPPED-UP MILITARY PACE IN SAHARA, WHILE ALGERIAN MEDIA
CONTINUES HIGHLIGHT EVERY ENCOURAGING OMEN IT CAN FIND,
INCLUDING ENTIRE UN REPORT ON BENIN AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. IF ONE IS TO BE GUIDED BY POLISARIO PROPAGANDA, IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT WAR IN SAHARA HAS HEATED UP. RECENT
POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ON CONTINUING EL OUALI OFFENSIVE
HAVE BEEN BOASTING OF MORE STEADY STREAM OF MILITARY
SUCCESSES THAN WE HAVE SEEN IN SOME TIME, AND DIMENSIONS
OF ALLEGED SUCCESSES HAVE GROWN AS WELL. SPECIFICALLY:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00788 281310Z

A. EARLY MARCH COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS POLISARIO INFLICTED
400 CASUALTIES ON MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN FORCES
DURING SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY AND SEIZED CONSIDERABLE
AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT; COMMUNIQUE STRESSES EQUALLY
ENGAGEMENTS ON "SOUTHERN FRONT" (MAURITANIA), "NORTHERN
FRONT" (MOROCCO), AS WELL AS IN SAHARA ITSELF.

B. MARCH 13 COMMUNIQUE REPORTS TICHIT BATTLE IN WHICH 37 MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS KILLED, 23 WOUNDED, AND 11 CAPTURED, INCLUDING ONE OFFICER, AND BOU CRAA BATTLE IN WHICH 9 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS KILLED AND 6 WOUNDED.

C. MARCH 16 COMMUNIQUE REPORTS POLISARIO ATTACK ON MOROCCAN CONVOY NORTH OF BOUJADOR IN SAHARA IN WHICH 20 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS KILLED AND 50 WOUNDED.

D. MARCH 17 COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES MARCH 15 AMBUSH OF JOINT MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN FORCE NEAR AGUERGUER WHICH RESULTED IN 52 DEAD AND 48 WOUNDED AND PRODUCED 7 MAURITANIAN AND 11 MOROCCAN PRISONERS; COMMUNIQUE ALLEGES CAPTAIN SIDINA OULD SIDIA, COMMANDER OF MAURITANIAN FORCES AT DAKHLA, KILLED ALONG WITH LIEUTENANT AMAR, COMMANDER OF MAURITANIAN GENDARMERIE COMPANY.

E. MARCH 19 COMMUNIQUE REPORTS MARCH 13 ATTACK ON MOROCCAN FORCES AT BIR ENZARAN IN WHICH 37 MOROCCANS KILLED AND 56 WOUNDED.

3. ALONG WITH INCREASED CLAIMS OF MILITARY SUCCESSES, ALGERIAN MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO FLAG EVERY POSSIBLE FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL OMEN. IN ADDITION TO MAURITANIAN DEFECTOR SURFACED 8 MARCH (ALGIERS 0628), ALGERIAN MEDIA HAS PUBLICIZED VISITS AND STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM TOGOLESE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MADAGASCAR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND FRENCH CGT SECGEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00788 281310Z

GEORGE SEGUY. FAVORABLE PRESS ARTICLES FROM DAKAR'S A"AFRIQUE NOUVELLE", "NEW YORK TIMES", AND BELGIAN "LE SOIR" HIGHLIGHTED, AS WERE APPEAL OF SIX OPPOSITION SPANISH PARTIES TO GOVERNMENT TO DENOUNCE MADRID TRIPARTITE ACCORD AND CREATION BY UNION OF ARAB YOUTH OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO SAHARA QUESTION.

4. RECENT COVERAGE TOPPED BY MARCH 22 PUBLICATION IN FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY EL MOUDJAHID OF SPECIAL EDITION CONTAINING COMPLETE TEXT OF UNSC SPECIAL MISSION'S REPORT ON BENIN AFFAIR.

5. COMMENT: IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SIFT POLISARIO FACT FROM POLISARIO FICTION. EVEN WHEN ONE ACCEPTS THAT POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE EXAGGERATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS MANY FOLD, RECENT INCREASING FREQUENCY OF COMMUNIQUE AND THEIR REPORTING OF LARGER BATTLES SUGGESTS HIGHER LEVEL OF VIOLENCE SAHARA THAN BEFORE. FURTHERMORE, WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO VISIT SAHARA CONTINUE TO RETURN IMPRESSED BY POLISARIO ACCOMPLISHMENTS,

DEDICATION, AND ORGANIZATION. IN ADDITION TO MARVINE HOWE
OF NY TIMES (ALGIERS 0668), AFP CORRESPONDENT HAS
COME BACK WITH SAME IMPRESSION. FURTHERMORE, TWO
LOCAL JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE VISITED SAHARA OFF AND ON
SINCE BEGINNING OF CONFLICT HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM
ANOTHER VISIT AND REPORT THAT THEY WERE IMPRESSED
BY POLISARIO PROGRESS IN ORGANIZATION AND INCREASE
IN ITS CAPABILITIES.LYNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770105-0995
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770318/aaaaapep.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4bf639b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2983753
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA ROUNDUP: POLISARIO CONTINUE TO CLAIM VICTORIES
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, MOPS, AG, SS, POLISARIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4bf639b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009